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Letters

No Profits to C.I.A.

To the Editor:

In "Iran 1: What Needs to Be Known" (editorial, Dec. 14) you state as fact, in connection with arms sales to Iran, that Oliver North "used the profits, deposited in a C.I.A. Swiss bank account, to purchase arms for the contra rebels in Nicaragua." The statement is false. The Central Intelligence Agency was not involved in any way in any diversion of Iran funds to the contras, nor were agency accounts used by others for that purpose.

The C.I.A. issued the following statement Dec. 3 (news story, Dec. 4):

"The only funds related to the Iranian program that passed through agency hands were the \$12 million owed to the Pentagon for arms. The funds received from the Iranians were segregated when received and were passed on promptly to the Pentagon. The agency received no profits from any activities with the Iranians, nor were any funds which passed through agency hands from the Iranians diverted to the contras or any other covert-action programs."

That statement reflects the true facts.

GEORGE V. LAUDER
Director, Public Affairs
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, Dec. 16, 1986

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